



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**KAREN BASS**  
 MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER  
 Representing the 47th Assembly District



Issue Two

District Newsletter

Winter 2007

## Message from Karen

*I am so excited about what we have planned for this year. In this issue of the District Newsletter, you will get information on how you can be involved in our activities as well as the process in general.*

*On the first day of the Legislative session, I introduced a piece of legislation that will continue funding for one of the cultural gems of our state, which is located in the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. In this issue, you will be able to find out more about it. Other highlights include a list of business chambers; the legislative calendar; information on how you can get involved in the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District People's Council and much more.*

*For this legislative session, I was appointed to the Majority Leader for the California Assembly. In this role, I run the Assembly Floor on behalf of the Speaker. This is an exciting opportunity. As Majority Leader, I will have the opportunity to be involved in many important issues that affect our state.*

*My legislative agenda includes bills ranging from education to business to the health. I am carrying legislation to address issues in the Foster Care System. Although we got a lot accomplished in this area last year, there is still more work to be done. I want to make sure that the funds that were approved last year in the budget and through legislation will be*

*appropriately allocated to help improve the lives of our foster youth. In addition, I have developed legislation that will address disparity gaps including the disproportionate Black infant mortality rate and the disproportionate Black male homicide rate.*

*In total, I have introduced 28 pieces of legislation. In order to provide you a complete overview of my bills, I will be publishing a special edition of my District Newsletter in the coming weeks.*

*I am also looking forward to having more town hall meetings and informational briefings on the issues that affect our District. There are some exciting events already planned for this year including a health fair.*

*Last year, I re-launched my Assembly Web site. In the next couple of months, I will launch a Web site specifically for the District. This will be a place for constituents to get information about the activities going on in the District as well as great places to visit in the District.*

*I am really looking forward to working for you and with you this year. Thank you for all your support personally and professionally. I am proud to serve as your representative in the California State Assembly.*

*Karen Bass*

To find out about specific legislation  
 or to track a bill log on to  
<http://www.legislature.ca.gov/>

Join the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District People's Council  
 and get involved in the process to make a difference in  
 the District...see page 4 for more details

## FROM THE CAPITOL



### Assemblymember Bass is Sworn in as the Majority Floor Leader

*Making history as the first African American and first woman to hold the leadership position*

As the new legislative session convenes, **Assembly Member Karen Bass** (D-Los Angeles) took her place as the new Majority Floor Leader, making her the first African American and first woman to hold the leadership position for the state of California.

The Majority Floor Leader represents the Speaker on the Floor, expedites Assembly Floor proceedings through parliamentary procedures such as motions and points of order and promotes harmony among the membership.

*"This was an exciting day for everyone and it was a privilege to be part of it," states Assemblymember Bass. "I look forward to working with my colleagues old and new."*

Since the start of the 2007-2008 Legislative Session in January, Majority Leader Bass has served in her new position.

*"We were very productive during the last session but it's imperative that we continue to move the agenda forward. Our accomplishments should serve as the beginning steps to our ultimate goal to address the needs of all Californians as well as ensure that each citizen has an opportunity to enjoy a good quality of life," states Bass on her expectations for the next legislative session.*

### Majority Leader Bass' 2007-2008 Committee Assignments

#### Committee on Business and Professions

Regulates professions that require a state license like private postsecondary and vocational education as well as overseeing agencies that protect the consumers.

#### Committee on Health

Oversees health care policy including Medi-Cal and licensing of health professionals and facilities; transforming California's health care system will be the number one policy issue in the Capitol this year; this policy debate will take place in the Health Committee

#### Committee on Utilities and Commerce

Responsible for regulating public utilities including electric, gas, cable and wireless as well as international trade and Women and Minority Owned Business Enterprises

#### Committee on Housing and Community Development

Responsible for building affordable housing as well as implementing the \$2.8 billion dollar housing bond and legislation guiding the State role in Community Development

**For 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District events and activities, contact my district office at (323) 937-4747**



## STATE OF BLACK CALIFORNIA

Majority Leader Karen Bass on behalf of the California's Legislative Black Caucus released the State of Black California Report, which provides a snap shot of blacks in California. The report was the result of a one-year research project that included qualitative and quantitative data collection measuring the status of the state's black population relative to whites and other ethnic and racial groups.

The quantitative data was compiled by using an Equality Index, an objective tool to compare the degree to which blacks enjoy equal conditions relative to those of whites and other ethnic groups. The Index provides a summary measure of overall wellbeing using a single index to represent performance on a number of economic, housing, health, education, criminal justice and civic engagement outcomes. Whites are used as the baseline group in calculating the Index, and they have a constant score of 1.00. The overall index results reveal an index score for blacks in California of .69. The index scores for blacks fare below that of whites in each index measured.

The report includes legislative and non-legislative proposals that will help us fill in the disparity gap that exists in every index outlined in the report. It also outlined the demographic trends of blacks in California.

The population of blacks is the smallest of the four major racial and ethnic groups in California. With cost of living being the major factor in relocating, the results show a consistent migration from the larger metropolitan areas of San Francisco and Los Angeles to the smaller ones of Sacramento and the Inland Empire over the last decade. Southern California houses the largest black population with Los Angeles at 45 percent of the state's black population and the Inland Empire with 10 percent.

The community was also involved in the data collection process. Last year, the Caucus hosted community town hall meetings with hundreds of residents in the Inland Empire, San Diego and Sacramento. Caucus members had the opportunity to listen to the issues that affect the black population in the different regions. Residents described positive aspects as well as challenges faced by the black population in their region.

*"This was important and honest feedback that complemented the quantitative data," according to **Majority Leader Karen Bass**, Legislative Black Caucus vice chair. "We wanted to ensure that the community had the opportunity to participate in the process as well as be active participants in developing solutions. In addition to proposing specific legislation, this report provides ideas that require active involvement from the black community."*

According to the Majority Leader, a major gap that became evident in the process was the difficulty in capturing the wealth accumulated by many Black Californians. "We know that many Black Californians have accumulated wealth and have succeeded in real estate and entrepreneurship as well as in corporate America by rising to executive positions in various industries. Black Californians are a major contributor to the state's economy with major purchasing power. Black Californians serve in elected office at every level in many regions that have relatively small black populations. These positive strides are part of the complete picture of the black community that are difficult to measure."

Along with exploring ways to document the success of Blacks throughout California, Caucus members are taking the necessary steps to move its agenda forward. Each member has authored specific legislative proposals that will help address the gaps outlined in the State of Black California Report. This spring, the Legislative Black Caucus will return to each region and conduct town hall meetings in order to report on the study findings and the legislative and non-legislative proposals proposed by the Caucus.

Steven Raphael, Goldman School of Public Policy University of California, Berkeley and Michael A. Stoll, School of Public Affairs University of California, Los Angeles prepared the report for the California Legislative Black Caucus.



Download a copy of the  
State of Black California Report at  
<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a47>

## AROUND THE DISTRICT

# The People's Council

### Small Business Commission

Organize small businesses in the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District to take advantage of State contracts and business opportunities

#### CO-CHAIRS

**Dan Cohen**

Co-owner  
The Kitchen Store

**Meron Ahadu**

Public Relations Officer  
The Ethiopian-American Advocacy Group

### Health Commission

Organize health fairs and educational presentations on key health policy issues as well as health education on diabetes, heart disease, etc.

#### CHAIR

**Karen Earl**

Executive Director  
The Jenesse Center

### Education Commission

Participate in town hall meetings to discuss key education policies as well as organize community fairs to ensure youth take advantage of federal and state programs

#### CO-CHAIRS

**Barbara Honig**

Assistant Principal  
Fairburn Elementary School

**Sandra Sealy**

Director of Education and Youth Development  
United Way of Los Angeles

### Environment Commission

Share the concerns and monitor key environmental policies affecting the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District as well as the State

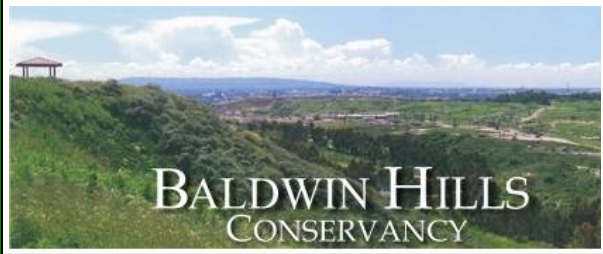
#### CHAIR

**Charles Stringer**

Principal and General Counsel  
The Renewable Resources Group

To get involved in the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
People's Council call (323) 937-4747





The Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) is a state appointed board whose mission is to acquire open space and manage public lands within the Baldwin Hills area and to provide recreation, restoration and protection of wildlife habitat within the territory for the public's enjoyment and educational experience. The work of the Conservancy has enormous impact on local communities, their residents and the environment.

Being one of eight conservancies in the state, the BHC is an experiment launched by leaders of the urban park movement. Due to a sunset provision, which is set to take effect in 2008, the BHC is about to face a pivotal period. Assemblymember Bass has introduced legislation to eliminate the sunset and continue funding the Conservancy.

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*"The Baldwin Hills Conservancy plays and important role in our community," states Majority Leader Bass. "It is pivotal in maintaining the historical, natural gem of Los Angeles nestled in the middle of the city. It should be enjoyed for years to come."*

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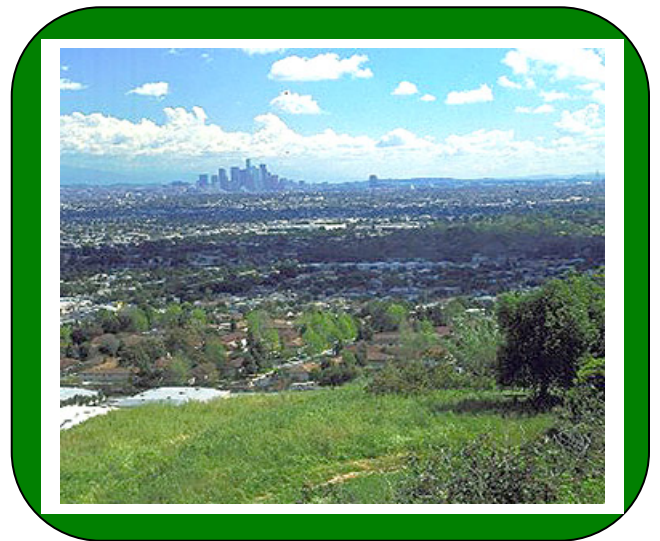
Currently, the BHC is continuing its work to acquire open space and manage public lands within the Baldwin Hills area and to provide recreation, restoration and protection of wildlife habitat through various projects.

- The Baldwin Hills Conservancy's One Big Park Conceptual Plan goal is to acquire 102 acres of coveted property straddling both sides of Fairfax Avenue and extending north of the ball fields behind Slauson Avenue and up to Stocker Street. An \$11 million grant from the Conservancy's Proposition 40 funds made it possible to close a three-year negotiation for the surface rights of the property. This will provide long-term opportunities to expand the sports complex and add new active recreation facilities.

- California State Parks and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy have begun the \$7 million Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook project. The construction plans call for an 8,000 square foot facility that will include a Visitors' Center featuring historic and natural exhibits; a small Media Theatre for a broader state park experience with other park units and classes; a Multi-Purpose Center; and both interior and exterior bathrooms. In addition, a catering kitchen will be built to host small special events at the adjacent open-air pavilion area. Multiple plazas will be installed at the overlook for optimal hiking and view enjoyment.

The Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook rests above Culver City at the northwestern section of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. The State Park owned and operated site hosts unparalleled panoramic views of the Santa Monica, San Gabriel and Santa Susanna Mountain Ranges, the Santa Monica Bay, the Los Angeles basin, the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Catalina Island.

Today, visitors can enjoy the natural habitat that the area has to offer including amazing trails, which offers panoramic views of downtown Los Angeles. For more information about the Baldwin Hills Conservancy or the Kenneth Hahn Park, log on to [www.bhc.ca.gov](http://www.bhc.ca.gov) or call 310 558-5593.



**For Volunteer or for Internship  
Opportunities at the District Office call  
(323) 937-4747  
or at the Capitol Office  
call (916) 319-2047**

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

### GREATER WEST LOS ANGELES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.westlachamber.org  
2990 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 300A  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
(310) 481-0600

### CRENSHAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.crenshawchamber.com  
POST OFFICE BOX 8193  
Los Angeles, CA 90008  
(800) 608-7774

### CULVER CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.culvercitychamber.com  
4249 Overland Ave.  
Culver City, CA 90232  
(310) 287-3850

### CENTURY CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.centurycitycc.com  
2029 Century Park East, Concourse Level  
Los Angeles, CA 90067  
(310) 553-2222

### GREATER LOS ANGELES AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.glaaacc.org  
3910 West Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd  
Los Angeles, California 90008  
(323) 292-1297

### KOREAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF LOS ANGELES

www.koreanchamber.com  
3440 Wilshire Blvd # 520  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
(213) 480-1115

### MID CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

5213 West Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
(323) 934-5682

### ETHIOPIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.eacoc.org  
8936 S. Sepulveda Blvd. #204  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
(213) 272-2262

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How can I schedule Assemblymember Bass to speak at our event?

*I am always open to speak at events throughout the community. Contact my scheduler at 916-319-2047 or fax your request to (916) 319-2147.*

### I would like to have Assemblymember Bass attend my event, what do I need to do?

*You can send an invitation to my office by mail or fax.*

Assemblymember Karen Bass  
Capitol Office  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento CA 94249-0047  
916-319-2147 fax

### How can I have Assemblymember Bass acknowledge our event?

*I can provide a certificate or a welcome message for your event. All I need is the following information:*

- Name of the organization
- Event name
- Date of the event
- Biographies of people being recognized
- Deadline

*You can send this information to my District Office at*

5750 Wilshire Blvd Suite 565 Los Angeles, CA 90036 or fax it to 323-937-3466

## District Office Services

### My staff can assist you with

- Renters/homeowners assistance programs
- Property tax postponement
- Government forms
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Consumer complaints
- State Franchise Tax Board
- Unemployment and disability insurance
- Medicare and Medi-Cal
- Veterans' affairs

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 1 ♦ **Health Commission** ♦ 6:30 p.m.

March 10 ♦ **Education Commission** ♦ 12:00 p.m.

March 15 ♦ **Environment Commission** ♦ 6:30 p.m.

March 22 ♦ **Small Business Commission** ♦ 6:30 p.m.

Contact the District Office at (323) 937-4747 or log on to

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a47>

for more information on events or activities in the District

### KINGDOM DAY PARADE JANUARY 15, 2007

Speaker Fabian Nunez and Assembly member Kevin De Leon joined Assembly member Bass and the 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District People's Council to march in the Kingdom Day parade held in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Participants walked throughout the 47<sup>th</sup> District as community residents aligned the streets. Nearly 100 People's Council members joined the Speaker and the Majority Leader as they marched from King Blvd. and Vernon Ave. to the end of the parade in Leimert Park., which is one of the cultural gems in the District.







## Emilia Lechuga- Bass Civil Rights Internship

Los Angeles –based law firm, Litt, Estuar, Harrison & Kitson Law Firm announces the establishment of the Emilia Lechuga-Bass Civil Rights Internship. The internship is for recent college graduates who are planning to attend law school with the objective of becoming civil rights or public interest lawyer.

This internship is named after Emilia Lechuga-Bass, who was a young woman planning to attend law school with the hope of practicing civil rights law. She was going to work at the firm prior to attending law school. Emilia, who came from a politically active family in Los Angeles, was to work on a range of issues to introduce her to the world of civil rights law. She was to more closely link the firm's civil rights impact work with the goals and needs of Los Angeles communities by partnering with community organizations. Tragically, Emilia and her husband Michael Wright were killed in a car accident just before beginning her work at the firm.

So that others may reach their goals, the firm has created an annual internship in Emilia's name to provide experience for young people hoping to attend law school with the goal of practicing civil rights and public interest law. The internship will provide an introduction into these areas by gaining real world experiences in a civil rights/public interest law firm.

Factors considered by the firm in choosing each year's civil rights intern will include academic performance, community and political experience, work experience, writing skills, and references. Experience in the Los Angeles area working with communities of color, and fluent bilingual skills, are considered a plus. California Assemblymember Karen Bass, Professor Gary Blasi of the UCLA School of Law, and firm partner Barry Litt will serve on the committee to choose the intern. Compensation for the intern in 2007-8 is set at \$16/hour, plus health and dental benefits.

Applicants for the Internship must meet the following criteria:

1. Have graduated from undergraduate college within two years of the commencement of the internship.
2. Intend to attend law school and to ultimately practice civil rights/public interest law.
3. A history of community service or political activity.
4. Skills in the use of Microsoft Office applications.
5. Completion of the Internship Application.

Individuals who wish to apply must submit the attached **Application** plus the following:

1. Official College Transcript
2. Three Letters of Recommendation from:
  - Professor;
  - Former or Current Employer(s); and
  - Political or community groups with which you have worked.
3. Resume
4. Writing sample. The writing sample must be an example of your own original writing, unedited by others, and be no more than ten (10) pages in length.

For an application or for more information on the Emilia Lechuga-Bass Internship, contact Leticia Moreno at (213) 386-3114. Applications are due annually by April 1<sup>st</sup> with a decision being made by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Emilia Lechuga-Bass

### Civil Rights Internship

Litt, Estuar, Harrison & Kitson, LLP  
1055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1880  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Applicants may also e-mail a completed application to [lmoreno@littlaw.com](mailto:lmoreno@littlaw.com). Letters of recommendation and transcripts included in e-mailed applications must be scanned and attached in PDF format. The remainder of the application materials may be attached as Word. Internship will last from July 1 to June 30, year-to-year.



## USEFUL INFORMATION

### LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES

February 23	Last day for bills to be introduced
March 29	Spring Recess begins upon adjournment
April 9	Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess
April 27	Last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills for referral to fiscal committees
May 11	Last day for policy committees to hear and report to the floor non fiscal bills.
May 25	Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 11
June 1	Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report bills to the floor  Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 11
June 4-8	Floor session only (Committees can not meet for any purpose)
June 8	Last day to pass bills out of house of origin
June 11	Committee meetings may resume
June 15	Budget Bill must be passed by midnight
July 13	Last day for policy committees to hear and report bills
July 20	Summer Recess begins on adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed
August 20	Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess
August 31	Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the Floor
September 14	Floor session only (Committees can not meet for any purpose)
September 7	Last day to amend on the Floor.
September 14	Last day for any bill to be passed  Interim Recess begins on adjournment
October 14	Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before Sept. 14 and in the Governor's possession after Sept. 14

#### Federal Citizen Information Center

For over 35 years, the Federal Citizen Information Center has been a trusted one-stop source for answers to questions about consumer problems and government services. Consumers can get the information they need in three ways: by calling (800) FED-INFO or logging on to the following Web sites:

- [www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov)
- [www.pueblo.gsa.gov](http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov)
- [www.kids.gov](http://www.kids.gov)
- [www.consumeraction.gov](http://www.consumeraction.gov)

#### California Employment Development Department

800 Capitol Mall, MIC 83  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(800) 758-0398

The California Employment Development Department (EDD) offers a wide variety of services to millions of Californians under the Job Service, Unemployment Insurance, Disability Insurance, Workforce Investment, and Labor Market Information programs. As California's largest tax collection agency, EDD also handles the audit and collection of payroll taxes and maintains employment records for more than 17 million California workers.

One of the largest state departments, EDD has employees located at hundreds of service locations throughout the state who provide many important services to millions of Californians each year, including:

- Assisting California employers in meeting their labor needs.
- Helping California job seekers obtain employment.
- Administering the federally-funded workforce investment programs for adults, dislocated workers, and youth.
- Assisting the disadvantaged and welfare-to-work recipients to become self-sufficient.
- Helping unemployed and disabled workers by administering Unemployment and Disability Insurance programs.
- Supporting state activities and benefit programs by collecting and administering employment-related taxes.
- Providing comprehensive labor market information.

#### Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

425 Shatto Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90020  
(213) 351-5602

The Department of Children and Family Services will, with our community partners, provide a comprehensive child protection system of prevention, preservation, and permanency to ensure that children grow up safe, physically and emotionally healthy, educated and in permanent homes.

#### Contact Information

**Capitol Office:** State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849 | Sacramento, CA 94249-0047 | Tel: (916) 319-2047 | Fax: (916) 319-2147  
**District Office:** 5750 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 565 | Los Angeles, CA 90036 | Tel: (323) 937-4747 | Fax: (323) 937-3466